

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ronesi for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on November 14, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that the limitations of Claim 27 may be included in Claim 26. In this case, the Examiner wanted to see an explanation and/or data why the use of alumina balls and a ball mill results in a coating liquid that is different from the coating liquids of the cited references. Claim 27 has been amended as discussed. The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 26** relates to a coating liquid for an outermost layer of an electrophotographic photoreceptor, comprising:

a filler;

an organic compound having an acid value of from 10 to 700 mgKOH/g;

a binder resin; and

plural organic solvents;

wherein said organic compound is selected from the group consisting of i) polymers having a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon skeleton and at least one carboxyl group, ii) copolymers having a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon skeleton and at least one carboxyl group, iii) oligomers having a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon skeleton and at least one carboxyl group and iv) mixtures thereof;

wherein said coating liquid is prepared by mixing the filler, the organic compound, the binder resin and the plural organic solvents using a **ball mill containing alumina balls**.

Nakao et al, Patzschke et al, and Kanamori et al, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a coating liquid as claimed which is prepared by mixing the filler, the

organic compound, the binder resin and the plural organic solvents using a **ball mill containing alumina balls**.

Applicants provide herewith a **Rule 132 Declaration** showing that by using ball milling, the filler can be finely dispersed while the dispersion has good dispersion stability. This cannot be achieved with the methods of Nakao et al, Patzschke et al, and Kanamori et al. In addition, the use of alumina balls results in a superior product compared to zirconia balls, glass balls. It is shown that even when a ball mill is used, the dispersibility and dispersion stability of the resultant dispersions depends on the dispersion media (i.e. balls). This is not disclosed or suggested by Nakao et al, Patzschke et al, and Kanamori et al. Using the method according to Claim 26, superior dispersibility and dispersion stability can be obtained.

Thus, the rejections over Nakao et al, Patzschke et al, and Kanamori et al, alone or in combination, should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of Claim 57.

Finally, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected claims should be rejoined.

With respect to the elected species, Applicants respectfully submit that, should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the non-elected species.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed

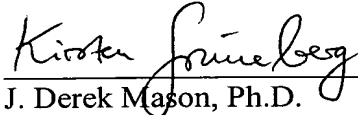
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representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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